



## Beaverton Police Department

4755 S.W. Griffith Drive  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Chief Geoff Spalding



# NEWS RELEASE

Officer Mike Rowe  
Public Information Officer  
(503) 969-6502 or 526-2275

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### **31 Arrests Made for Food Stamp Fraud**

During the first two weeks of June 2015 the Beaverton Police, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Tigard Police, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, Lake Oswego Police, Washington County Parole and Probation, Multnomah County Parole and Probation and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General (USDA-OIG) agents served 31 arrest warrants related to food stamp fraud. These arrests were made in the Metro area.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp Program (FSP), administered by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), is a United States Department of Agriculture assistance program designed to provide food to low-income families. The FNS authorizes certain grocery stores to accept food stamps and/or credit accrued on Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards from authorized recipients for eligible food items. EBT card benefits can be legally used only for the purchase of food.

In June of 2014, it was discovered that Deok Lim the owner of the Metzger Mart was exchanging SNAP benefits for cash. Customers would come into his store and use their SNAP card for a large purchase and then exit the store with a can of soda or other small items. The investigation showed that Lim was giving the SNAP card participants fifty cents on the dollar in cash and would keep the remaining amount charged to the SNAP card. At that time a Beaverton Police Detective and a Special Agent from the U.S. department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General started this investigation.

Lim as well as 30 other individuals have been arrested for unlawfully using supplemental nutrition assistance. Lim is being charged with 18 counts that include six counts for computer crime, three counts of aggravated theft in the first degree, three counts of theft in the first degree and six counts of unlawfully using supplemental nutrition assistance. Further arrests are anticipated related to this investigation.

This investigation would not have been possible without the assistance of the arresting agencies and the assistance from the Oregon Secretary of State, Audit's Division and the Oregon Department of Human Services.

Please contact the Beaverton Police Departments Public Information Officer with any questions related to this investigation.

##BPD##

